

ABSOLUTE BATMAN



ALL IN

15+
TEEN+ 12



SNYDER
DRAGOTTA
MARTIN

DRAGOTTA
DRAK

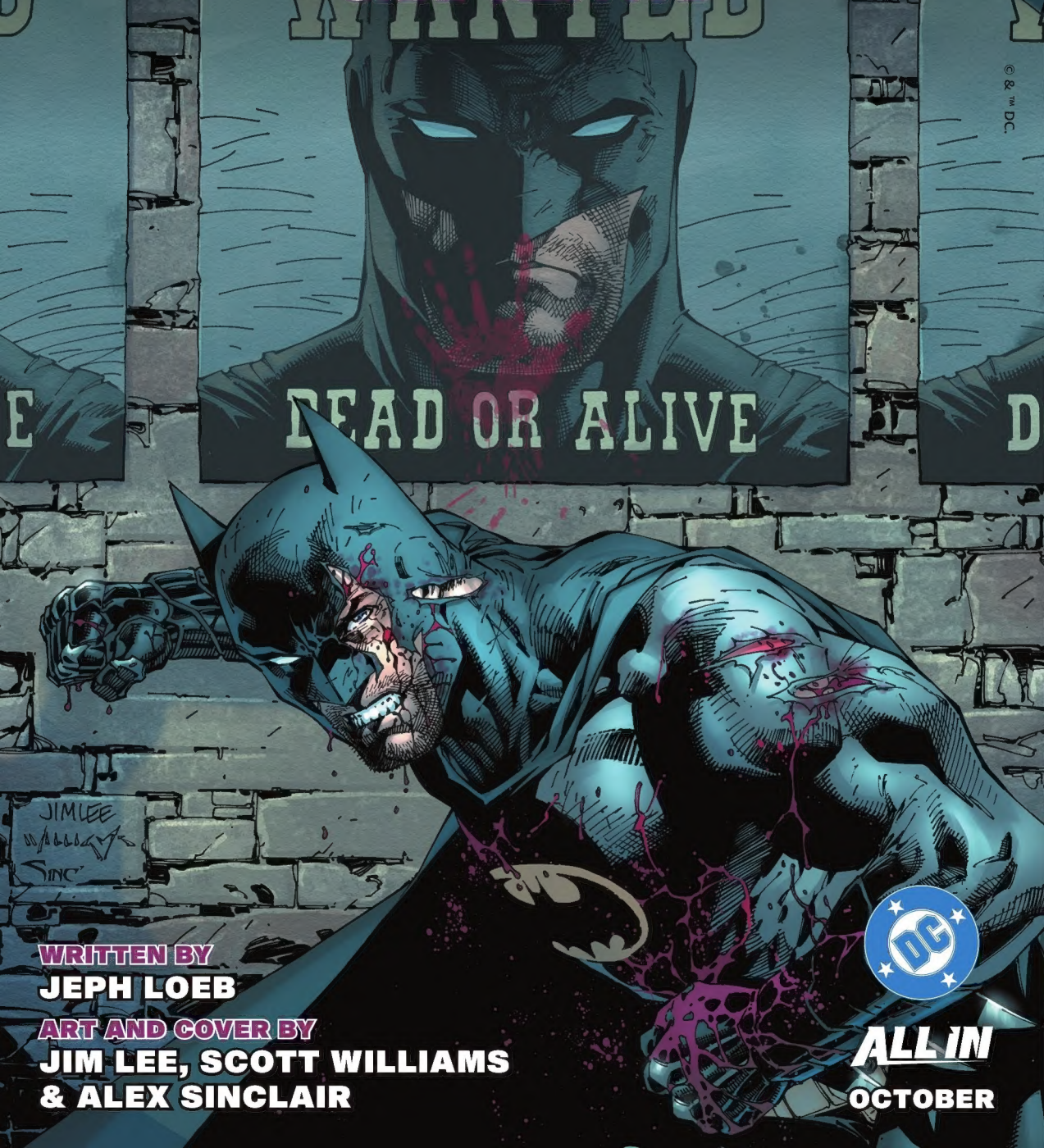
BATMAN VS. THE BAT-FAMILY!

BATMAN

HUSH

#162

CHAPTER FIVE

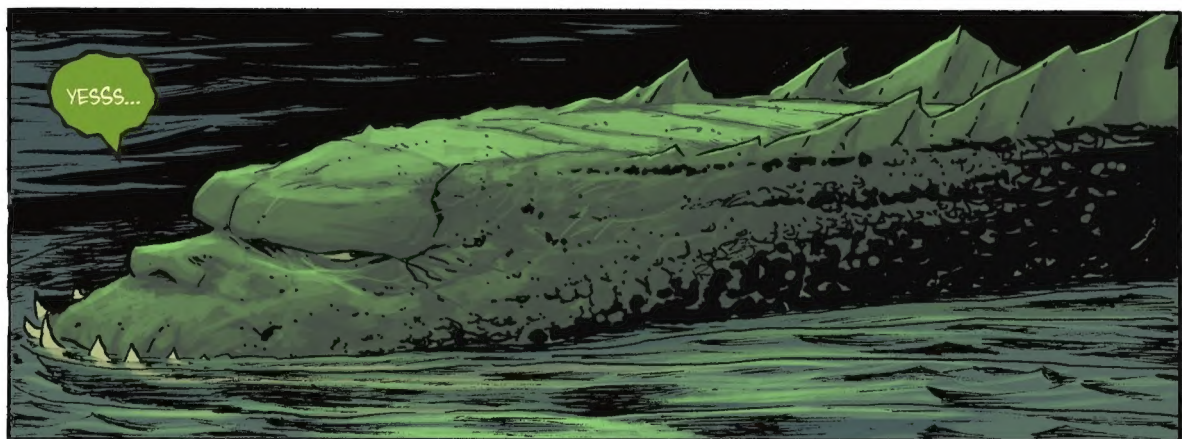


**WRITTEN BY
JEPH LOEB**

**ART AND COVER BY
JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS
& ALEX SINCLAIR**



**ALL IN
OCTOBER**





I WILL.
I SWEAR. I'LL FIND
A CURE, I--

NO!



THE HUNGERRR,
BRUCE. IT HURTSS
TOO MUCH.
PLEASSSE...

...SAVE
ME.



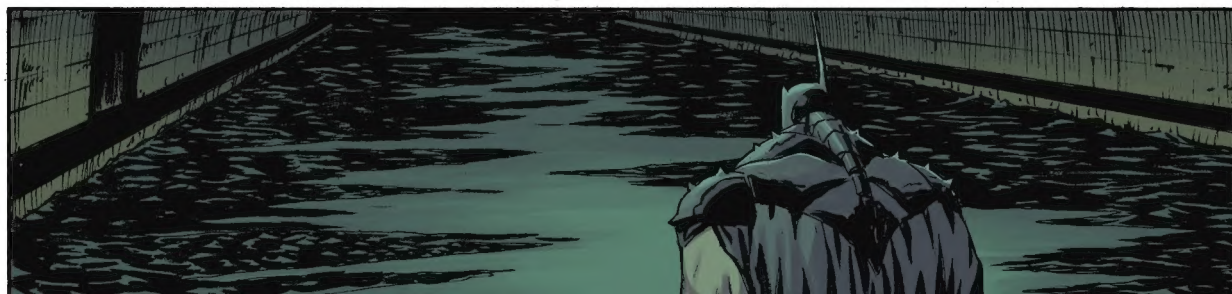
WAY...



DO
IT!



I...
I CAN'T.





ABOMINATION

PART FOUR

SCOTT SNYDER **NICK DRAGOTTA**
WRITER ARTIST
FRANK MARTIN **CLAYTON COWLES**
COLORIST LETTERER

**DRAGOTTA
& MARTIN**
COVER

**SABRINA
FUTCH**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

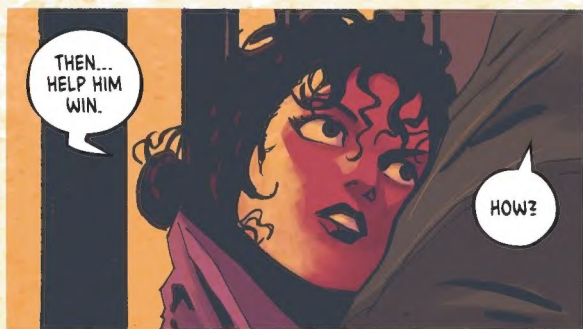
PAUL POPE & JOSÉ VILLARRUBIA
DENYS COWAN & FRANK MARTIN
STEVAN SUBIC
VARIANT COVERS

**ANDREW
MARINO**
EDITOR

**KATIE
KUBERT**
GROUP EDITOR

**CHRIS
CONROY**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER





✂GASP!✂

EASY,
EASY.

UNH...
HOW LONG
HAVE I BEEN
OUT?

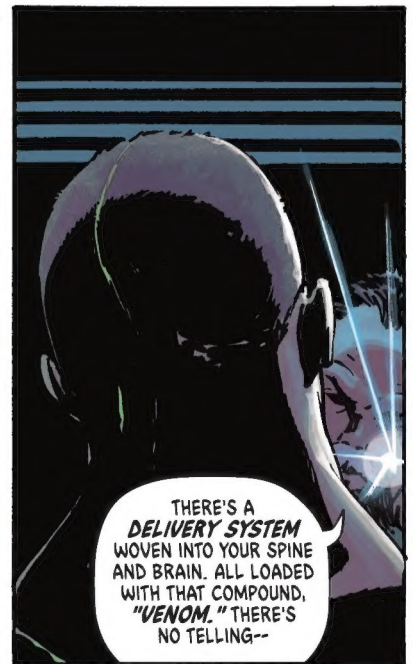


IT'S BEEN TWENTY DAYS SINCE I
FOUND YOU COLLAPSED ON THE
FLOOR OF THIS PLACE.



TWENTY
@#%
DAYS?!

YES. AND
YOU NEED A HELL OF
A LOT MORE. THE THINGS
THEY DID TO YOUR BODY...
I'M NOT SURE YOU FULLY
COMPREHEND.



THERE'S A
DELIVERY SYSTEM
WOVEN INTO YOUR SPINE
AND BRAIN. ALL LOADED
WITH THAT COMPOUND,
"VENOM." THERE'S
NO TELLING--



I'M FINE,
PENNYWORTH.

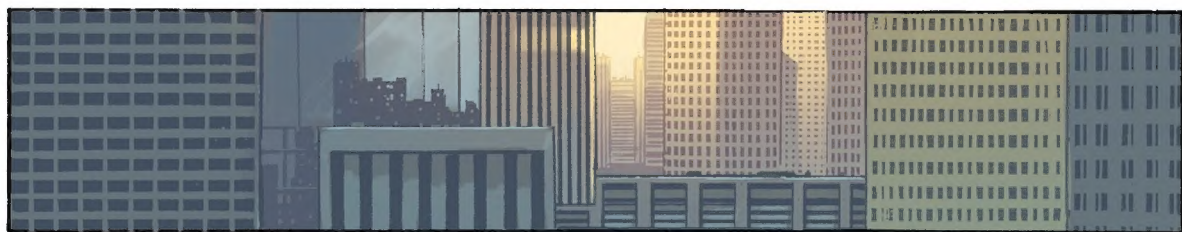
NO.
KID.



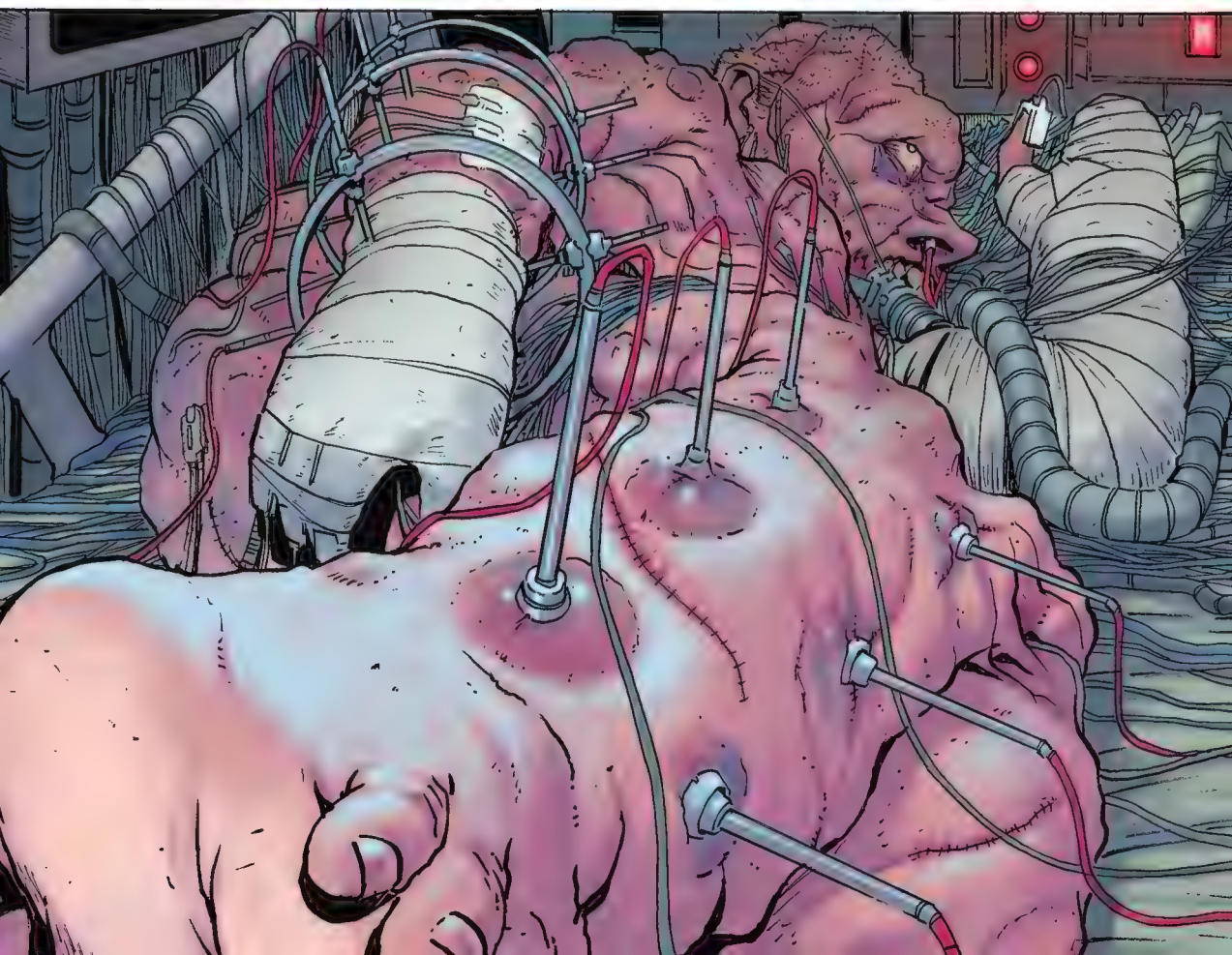
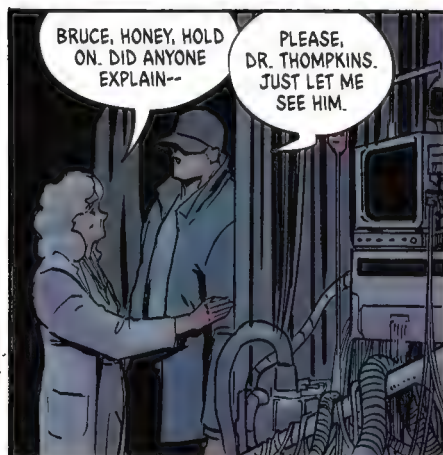
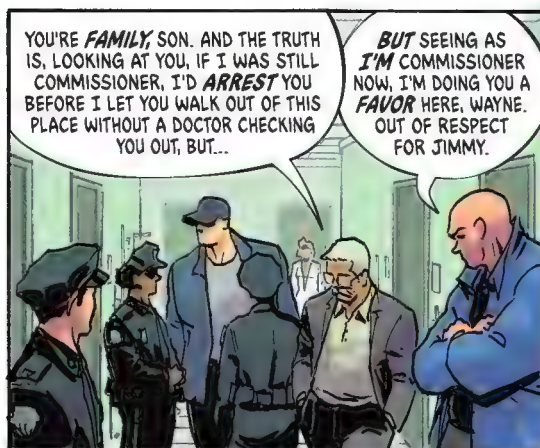
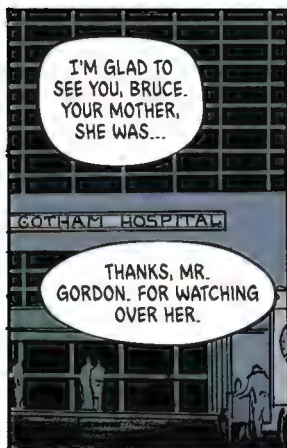
YOU NEED TO HEAR THIS. WHAT
YOU **DID**...THINGS HAVE **CHANGED**
NOW. YOU'RE IN IT, YOU
UNDERSTAND?

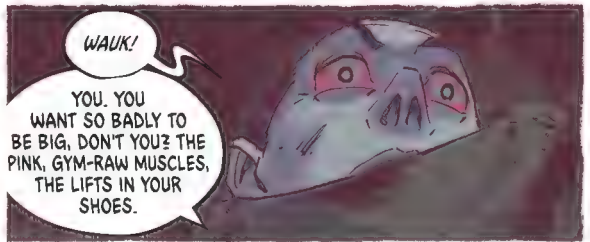
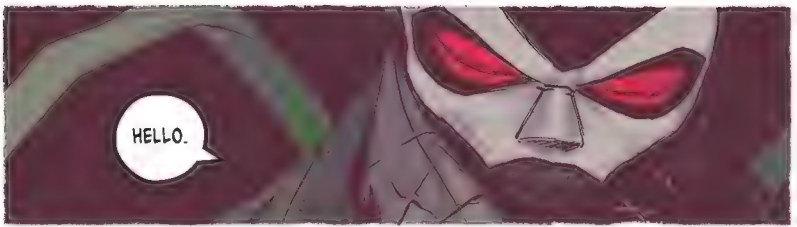
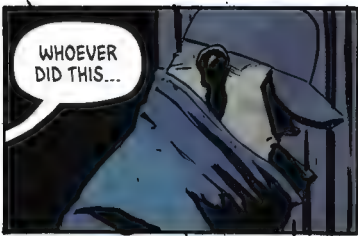


I GET
IT. NOW I'M
GOING TO NEED
YOU TO
MOVE.

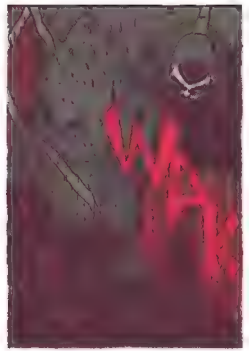








"THEY BROKE NEARLY EVERY BONE IN OSWALD'S BODY."



"SOME IN MULTIPLE PLACES."



"BUT SOMEHOW, THEY DID IT IN A WAY THAT MISSED EACH VITAL ORGAN."

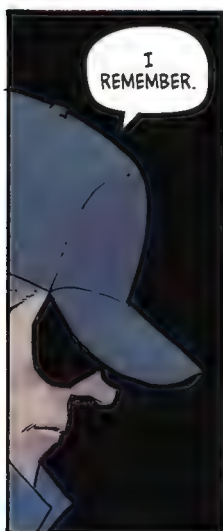


"IT WAS PRECISE, SURGICAL, CRUEL BEYOND MEASURE."



"IF OSWALD LIVES, HE'LL BE ALMOST **TWO FEET** SHORTER, AND HIS HANDS, HIS FEET..."







...YOU'RE ALSO DESTINED TO BE THE **TRAITOR**. BECAUSE YOUR FRIENDS, THEY'RE ALL OUTLAWS. AND YOU, WITH YOUR PRINCIPLES, YOUR AMBITIONS, THOSE EYES...



"YOU STICK WITH THESE LOSERS. THEY'LL BRING YOU DOWN HARD," FLASS WOULD SAY TO ME.



YOU ESTABLISHED THIS RITUAL LONG AGO, DIDN'T YOU? THIS POKER GAME, A SAFE PLACE WHERE THE STAKES ARE VOID...



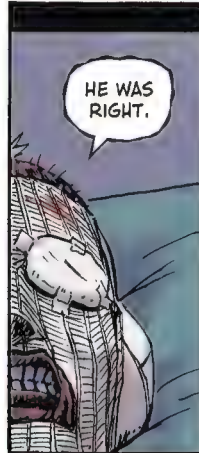
...WHERE YOU CAN BE BOTH FOREVER. OUTLAW AND LAWMAN. FRIEND AND ENEMY, A MICROCOSM, GAMBLING FOR PLASTIC COINS, ALL **PRETEND**.



BUT THE TIME FOR PRETENDING IS OVER.



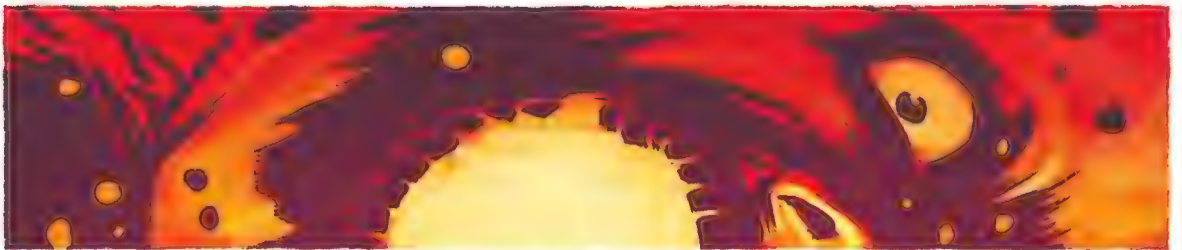
HE WAS RIGHT.



HE WAS RIGHT.



CRACK



I HEARD HE'S RETIRED SOMEWHERE, FLASS.



METROPOLIS, GATEWAY CITY. I SHOULD LOOK HIM UP.



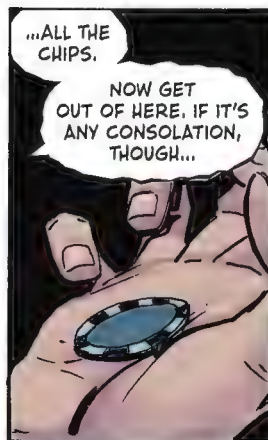
I'M SO SORRY, HARVEY. THIS...THIS IS ALL MY FAU--

YES.



YES IT IS.

YOU GAMBLER FOR REAL, BRUCE. PUT IT ALL OUT THERE, YOUR FRIENDS, THE CITY, EVERYTHING...



...ALL THE CHIPS.

NOW GET OUT OF HERE. IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, THOUGH...



...I ONLY HATE YOU HALF THE TIME.



EDDIE!

EDDIE,
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?!



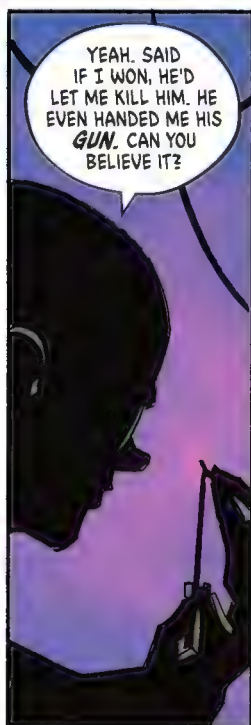
I'M
FINE, BRUCE!
JUST OVER HERE
WORKING...



THANK GOD. I THOUGHT
MAYBE HE *HURT*
YOU, TOO.

NO, NO.
HE DIDN'T HURT ME.
IN FACT, HE WAS VERY
GENTLEMANLY. HE
CHALLENGED ME TO
A FRIENDLY BATTLE
OF *WITS*.

WHAT?



YEAH. SAID
IF I WON, HE'D
LET ME KILL HIM. HE
EVEN HANDED ME HIS
GUN. CAN YOU
BELIEVE IT?



EDDIE...?



"I'LL
BET YOU LIKE
RIDDLES,"
HE SAID.



WHAT...
WHAT DID
YOU *DO*?

"IT ONLY TOOK HIM A
MINUTE TO BEAT ME.

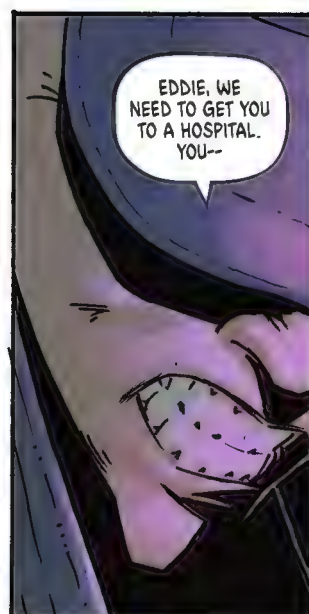
"AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, HE WAS
SHAKING MY HEAD. *SLAMMING*
THE FRONT OF MY BRAIN INTO MY
SKULL. THE FRONTAL LOBE,
THE PART RESPONSIBLE FOR
INTELLIGENCE? *BANG!*
IT WAS *WILD*, BRUCE!

"LIKE, *BANG!* AND
SUDDENLY FACTS BECAME
QUESTIONS. *BANG!*
QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS
EVERYWHERE."



SO NO,
BRUCE. HE
DIDN'T HURT
ME AT
ALL.

HE HELPED ME! HE WAS **CHALLENGING**
ME. MAYBE HE WAS CHALLENGING
ALL OF US. TO BECOME **MORE**,
BECOME WHAT WE'RE
MEANT TO BE...



EDDIE, WE
NEED TO GET YOU
TO A HOSPITAL.
YOU--



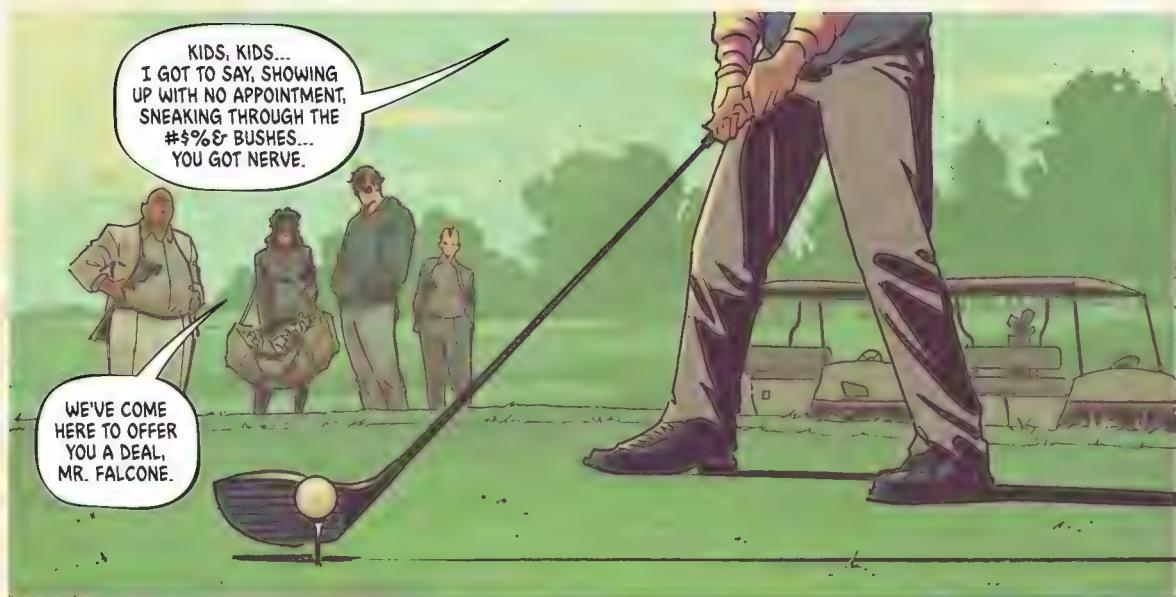
AAAGH!



OOH...
LOOKS LIKE HE
CHALLENGED YOU
TOO, BRUCE!



SO
RIDDLE ME
THIS...WHAT
ARE YOU GOING
TO DO ABOUT
IT?





STAND
DOWN,
NOW.

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, "STAND
DOWN"??

I MEAN
IT'S OFF. ALL
OF IT.



NOTHING'S OFF.
YOU DON'T GET
TO TELL THE RED
HOOD GANG
WHAT'S--



WHAT
WAS THAT
ABOUT?



YOU WERE RIGHT.
WHEN THE BLACK MASK
OFFERED THAT *DEAL*, I
DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT.
NOT REALLY. I JUST...
I DIDN'T SEE.



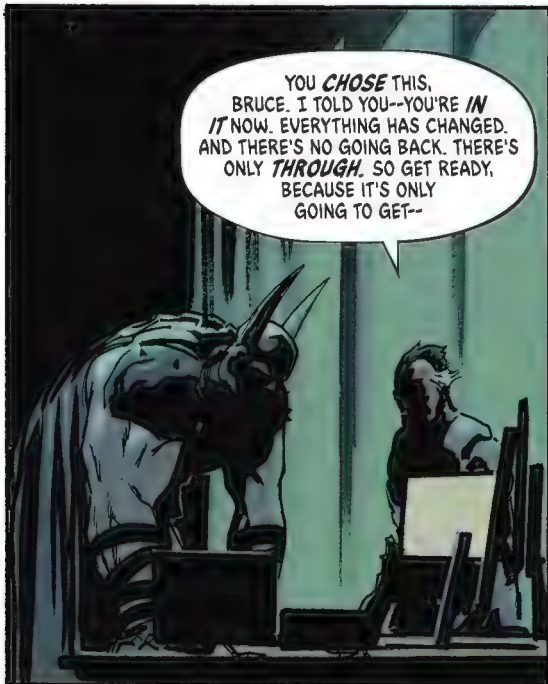
SO THAT'S
IT, KID? YOU
CLOSING DOWN
OPERATIONS?



HE
BROKE THEM,
PENNYWORTH!
MY FRIENDS.



THAT'S RIGHT.
HE DID. THE
QUESTION IS, ARE
YOU GOING TO LET
HIM BREAK
YOU?



YOU *CHOSE* THIS,
BRUCE. I TOLD YOU--YOU'RE *IN*
IT NOW. EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED.
AND THERE'S NO GOING BACK. THERE'S
ONLY *THROUGH*. SO GET READY,
BECAUSE IT'S ONLY
GOING TO GET--



SOMEONE'S
BREACHED
THE HATCH.



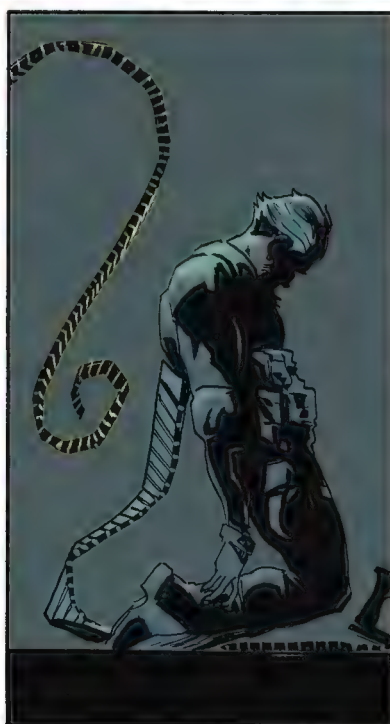
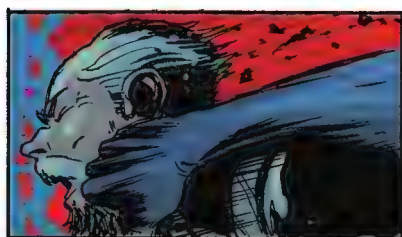
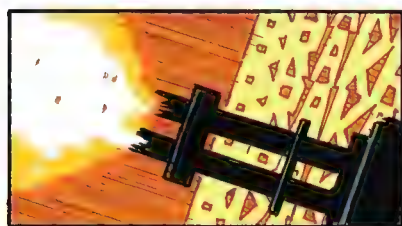
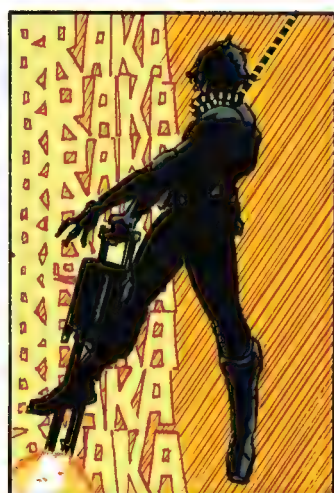
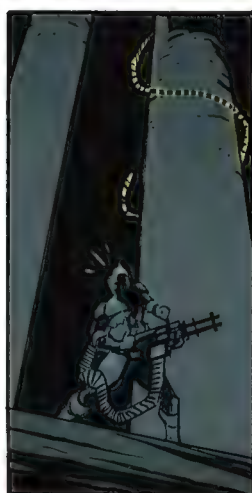
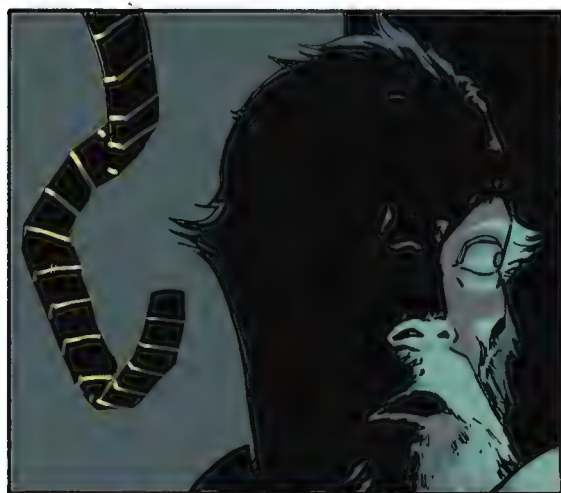
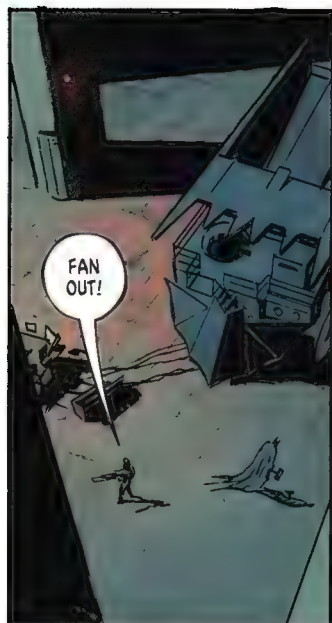
HE'S
HERE... BANE.



ALL RIGHT.
HE LOVES *WAR*
SO MUCH...

...LET'S
BLOODY *GIVE* IT
TO HIM.







WELL,
HELLO TO
YOU TOO,
BRUCE.

TO BE
CONTINUED...



#1 PREVIEW

WRITER
SCOTT SHYDER

ARTIST
JAVI FERNÁNDEZ

COLORIST
ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ

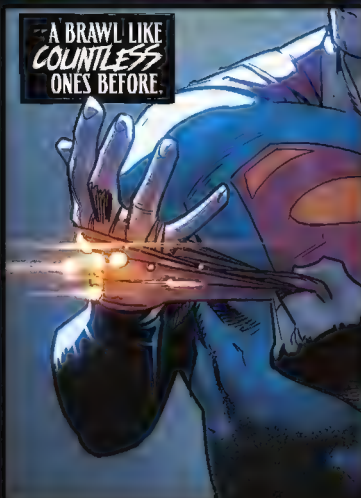
LETTERER
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

HERE IN THE DARK,
IN THE MOMENTS
BEFORE IT BEGINS.

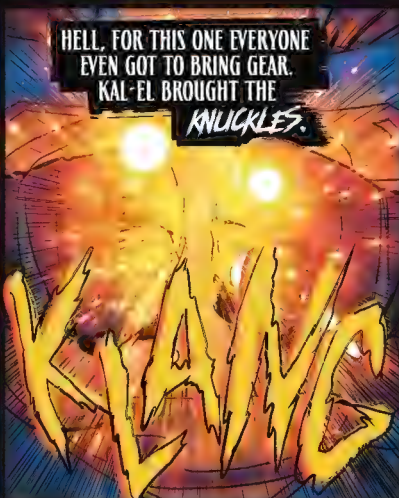
HE TELLS HIMSELF
IT'S JUST ANOTHER
FIGHT—



A BRAWL LIKE
COUNTLESS
ONES BEFORE.



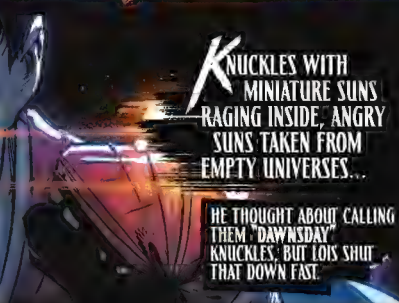
HELL, FOR THIS ONE EVERYONE
EVEN GOT TO BRING GEAR.
KAL-EL BROUGHT THE
KNUCKLES.



HE FORGED THEM IN
THE FORTRESS YEARS
AGO, AFTER RETURNING
FROM THE DEAD.

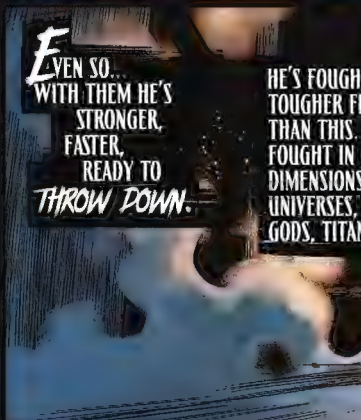


KNUCKLES WITH
MINIATURE SUNS
RAGING INSIDE, ANGRY
SUNS TAKEN FROM
EMPTY UNIVERSES...



HE THOUGHT ABOUT CALLING
THEM "DAWNSDAY"
KNUCKLES, BUT LOIS SHUT
THAT DOWN FAST.

EVEN SO...
WITH THEM HE'S
STRONGER,
FASTER,
READY TO
THROW DOWN.



HE'S FOUGHT
TOUGHER FIGHTS
THAN THIS.
FOUGHT IN OTHER
DIMENSIONS, OTHER
UNIVERSES, FOUGHT
GODS, TITANS...

...WHAT'S ONE
MORE FIGHT?



AND THEN THE
DOORS OPEN—



WHAT
THE--



TWO SPACES. ONE, TWO.

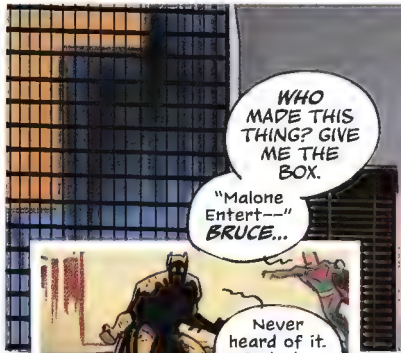
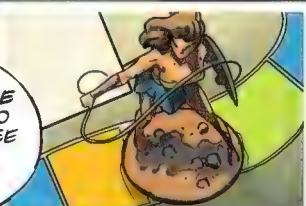
Whomp, whomp. GO BACK A ROW, CLARK. GREEN IS KRYPTONITE.

KRYPTONITE, DIANA?

Seriously?

I DIDN'T MAKE THE RULES!

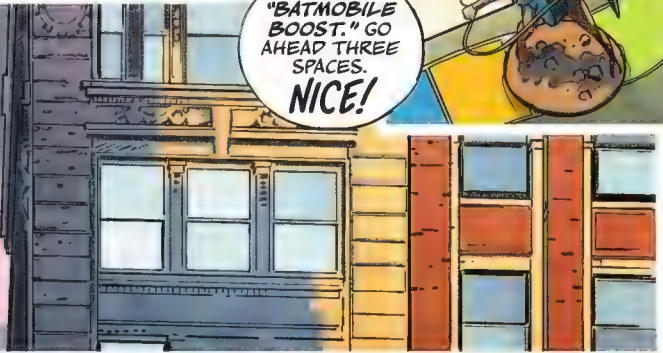
Oh, look, "BATMOBILE BOOST." GO AHEAD THREE SPACES. **NICE!**



WHO MADE THIS THING? GIVE ME THE BOX.

"Malone Entert—" **BRUCE...**

Never heard of it. Just play the game.



I WARNED YOU... CLARK DOESN'T LIKE A GAME UNLESS NO ONE HAS TO LOSE.

Aw, LOSING BUILDS CHARACTER.



SO DOES WINNING.



Well, I FOR ONE AM GLAD YOU INVITED US. THANKS, LOIS.

OF COURSE. I JUST THOUGHT YOU NEVER GET TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER. I MEAN, WHEN YOU'RE NOT SAVING THE WORLD.

THANKS, LO. I'M GLAD, TOO.

ME TOO.

NICE, BATPLANE POWER CARD. MOVE UP... NINE SPACES. YOUR ROLL, CLARK.



IT'S ALL RIGHT. WHY DON'T WE EAT?

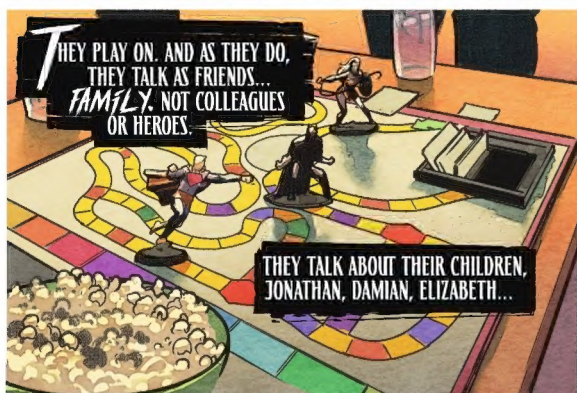
FOOD'S STILL COOKING. NICE TRY, THOUGH.

YOU JUST NEED A STRATEGY, CLARK. THE WHOLE GAME IS STRATEGY.



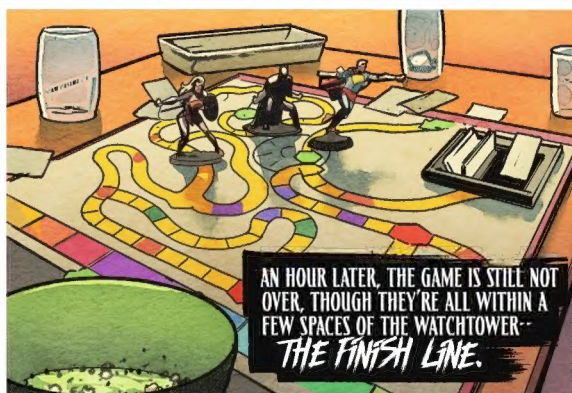
OR YOU COULD STOP ARGUING AND PLAY HARD. WATCH AND LEARN...

TWELVE!
MOVE UP ONE ROW.



THEY PLAY ON. AND AS THEY DO, THEY TALK AS FRIENDS... **FAMILY.** NOT COLLEAGUES OR HEROES.

THEY TALK ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN, JONATHAN, DAMIAN, ELIZABETH...



AN HOUR LATER, THE GAME IS STILL NOT OVER, THOUGH THEY'RE ALL WITHIN A FEW SPACES OF THE WATCHTOWER--
THE FINISH LINE.



DIANA IS ABOUT TO ROLL THE WINNING ROLL WHEN LOIS SAYS IT...

GUYS, WHY IS IT SO BRIGHT OUT?



Dear god...

WHAT CLARK SEES OUT THE WINDOW MAKES HIS BLOOD RUN COLD.

DARKSEID.

THE HEROES' OLDEST
AND GREATEST FOE.
MAYBE THE MOST FAMILIAR
ENEMY THEY HAVE.

BUT *THIS* DARKSEID HAS
BECOME SOMETHING ELSE.
SOMETHING MORE.

HE ISN'T JUST BIGGER,
STRONGER...
HE'S *EVERYTHING*.
A UNIVERSE OF POWER
GIVEN FORM.

EVERYWHERE HE LOOKS,
THE CITY BECOMES HIS.
NO, CLARK THINKS, NOT
IT BECOMES *HIM*.
CLARK CAN *SEE* IT HAPPENING

EVERY PARTICLE,
EVERY MOLECULE,
EVERY *ATOM* IS OF
DARKSEID.

AS THEY CHARGE HIM, CLARK
TELLS HIMSELF THEY'VE DONE THIS
BEFORE. THEY'VE FOUGHT UXS
DOZENS OF TIMES AND *WON...*

...THIS FIGHT IS
LIKE *NOTHING*
THEY'VE FACED
EVER...

TO BE CONTINUED IN



#1 ON SALE IN OCTOBER!



DETECTIVE COMICS #1101



RED HOOD #1



HARLEY QUINN #54



CATWOMAN #79

THIS SEPTEMBER, FALL INTO NEW STORY

ARCS ACROSS GOTHAM—AND BEYOND!



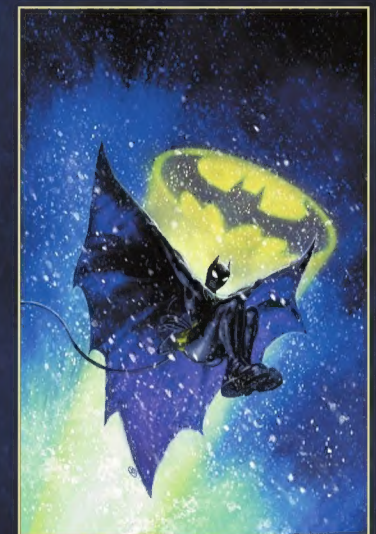
POISON IVY #36



BATMAN AND ROBIN #25



NIGHTWING #130



BATGIRL #12

(On sale in October)





NATION

SPOTLIGHT ON

C.O.R.T. CHILDREN OF THE ROUND TABLE

INTERVIEW WITH TOM TAYLOR

Superstar writer Tom Taylor is beloved by DC fans for his work on *Detective Comics*, *Nightwing*, *DCEased*, and much more—and starting this September, he and artist Daniele Di Nicuolo introduce a new cast of characters outside of the DC Universe in the six-issue all-ages series *C.O.R.T.: Children of the Round Table*. In *C.O.R.T.*, frequent collaborators Taylor and Di Nicuolo put their own contemporary spin on Arthurian lore as ancient weapons meet children of destiny.

Tom, what makes now the right time for this story?

We live in a time when it feels like too many adults in charge aren't working for future generations. For me, this is the perfect time for stories where the next generations step up and take down tyrants to make a better world...with kindness, and powers, and giant swords.



Can you tease the threat the Children of the Round Table face in this story?

There is a tyrant rising, with access to a dark magical power tied to long ago. Our kids have been chosen to be a new force for good. Arthur, Lancelot, and the original Knights of the Round Table are bonded to the weapons they once wielded. And their spirits now speak (and argue) and train this next generation of knights to save the world.



What's the importance for you of telling all-ages stories in the monthly-comics format?

I came to comics as a kid and I want more kids reading comics. I want to create books that comics shops can hand to kids and say, "Here. Have fun. And welcome to the greatest storytelling medium on the planet." I want adults to buy comics for kids and for kids to be excited to read them. I want uncles and aunties and parents and grandparents to share their love of comics.

But I also want to create stories that are truly engaging for everyone, stories that will shock and entertain adults and kids alike.

Similarly, what do you see as the significance of telling this original story at DC?

Creating a new group of heroes, with powers and villains and a vast lore, at one of the greatest publishers to ever do all that, is incredibly exciting. This is the home of the Justice League. This is the home of the Teen Titans. Now DC is the home of the Children of the Round Table.

I hope this series can run a lot longer than its first six issues (which will depend on how many people embrace it, of course) because I'd love to see these young heroes grow in future stories. I'd love for each arc to be another year and for readers to grow up along with our cast.

Have to ask—if you had a talking weapon, what kind of weapon (and personality) would you want?

Look. Swords are just cool. Talking swords are even cooler. That's just basic math.



**DON'T MISS
C.O.R.T.: CHILDREN OF
THE ROUND TABLE #1
ON SALE MONTHLY!**

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS VP – Editor-in-Chief JIM LEE President, Publisher & Chief Creative Officer ANNE DePIES Senior VP & General Manager LARRY BERRY VP – Brand Design & Creative Services BRIAR DARDEN VP – Business Affairs LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Editorial Programming & Talent Strategy JAY KOGAN Senior VP – Legal NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Manufacturing, Operations & Collected Editions NANCY SPEARS VP – Sales & Marketing CARRIE WILLIAMS Executive Director – Publicity & Communications

ABSOLUTE BATMAN 12, November, 2025. Published monthly by DC Comics, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 700, 2nd Floor, Burbank, CA 91522. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2025 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dc.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dc.com/ratings.